

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02437 221718Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----118119 221720Z /41
O 221646Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1412

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 2437

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR EG IS US
SUBJ: BEGIN'S SINAI PROPOSAL

REFS: A) TEL AVIV 2298, B) STATE 41126

I HAVE REVIEWED REF A WHICH WAS DRAFTED IN MY ABSENCE
AND CONCUR FULLY IN THE ANALYSIS THEREIN. AFTER ATHERTON
AND I MET YESTERDAY (FEB 21) WITH BEGIN, I AM EVEN MORE
CONVINCED THAT HE IS GOING TO FOLLOW OPTION THREE IN
OUR ANALYSIS: THAT IS, TO COME TO WASHINGTON WITH HIS
SINAI PROPOSAL IN TACT, BUT PREPARED TO MODIFY IT IF HE
DOES NOT OBTAIN US SUPPORT DURING HIS WASHINGTON MEETINGS
FOR SOME COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE SETTLEMENTS TO
REMAIN IN SINAI ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. ALTHOUGH THE CABINET
MEETING FEB 26 WILL REACH A FINAL DECISION, ALL
INDICATIONS SEEM TO BE THAT IT WILL LIKELY DECIDE ON A
MORATORIUM ON NEW SETTLEMENTS ACTIVITY, AT LEAST IN THE
SINAI, WHILE ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING ON. WEIZMAN
ARGUED VERY STRONGLY AT THE CABINET ON MONDAY FOR THIS
DECISION; SHARON TOOK THE OPPOSITE VIEW; AND THE WEIGHT
OF OPINION IN THE CABINET WE BELIEVE IS STRONGLY ON
WEIZMAN'S SIDE AT THIS POINT. ALTHOUGH BEGIN HAS NOT

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REVEALED HIS OWN POSITION TO HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES, I
BELIEVE HE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY AFFECTED BY REPORTS FROM
DAYAN AND OTHERS ABOUT THE HIGHLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDES AMONG
AMERICAN JEWISH SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL ON THE SETTLEMENTS
QUESTION. BEGIN IS CERTAIN TO WANT TO RECOUP HIS POSITION
WITH HIS JEWISH SUPPORTERS IN THE US BEFORE HE MEETS WITH
PRESIDENT CARTER. FOR THIS REASON, I BELIEVE HE WILL COME

DOWN ON WEIZMAN'S SIDE AT THIS POINT. WHEN I TALKED BRIEFLY
WITH WEIZMAN LAST NIGHT ABOUT THIS ISSUE HE SEEMED
REASONABLY CONFIDENT OF THE OUTCOME NEXT SUNDAY. LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

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